United Nations S/2005/500

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 July 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 28 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Denmark in May 2005 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with other members of the Council. I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Permanent Representative

05-44761 (E) 050805

Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Denmark (May 2005)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Denmark in May 2005, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues, including Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, the Middle East, Iraq and Haiti.

During the month of May, the Security Council held 13 official meetings and conducted informal consultations on 9 occasions. It adopted three resolutions and five presidential statements. The President also made five statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

On 3 May, after its adoption, the President briefed the press on the work programme of the Security Council. The President also held meetings respectively with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, briefing them on the work of the Security Council.

Through its website (http://www.sikkerhedsraadet.um.dk/en), the presidency provided information on the activities of the Council.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 4 May, the Security Council held a formal meeting and adopted unanimously resolution 1600 (2005), by which it extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the French forces, which support it, until 4 June 2005.

On 25 May, the President delivered a statement to the press, welcoming the agreement between the National Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire and the armed forces of the Forces nouvelles on the disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion process and on the restructuring of the armed forces, signed on 14 May 2005 at Yamoussoukro. The Council members also commended the South African mediation for its efforts and urged the Ivorian parties to fully implement the agreement, bearing in mind the Council's decisions taken to encourage the parties to pursue the peace process.

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

On 4 May in informal consultations, the Council members received a short briefing from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the status of deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). Deployment was progressing, though some delays were experienced because of logistical and other difficulties. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jan Pronk, was consulting with all relevant parties in an

effort to finalize the status of forces agreement as prescribed in resolution 1590 (2005) on the mandate of UNMIS.

On 12 May, at an open meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the Council on the continuing situation of insecurity in Darfur, on the lack of progress in the Abuja peace talks and the need for international support to an expanded African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS). The meeting was followed by closed consultations in which Council members had further discussions on the issues. A formal meeting concluded the Council's deliberations. The President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/18), in which the Council applauded the vital leadership role of the African Union in Darfur and the work of AMIS on the ground. The Council emphasized the importance of increased coordinated international assistance to the African Union effort in Darfur, and expressed the readiness of the United Nations to continue to play a key role.

On 25 May the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who had just concluded a visit to the Sudan and the African Union in Addis Ababa, once again briefed the Council in informal consultations. He outlined four tracks that needed to be pursued in order to achieve lasting peace in Darfur. First, full support — not least at the donors conference in Addis Ababa on 26 May — should be given to the expanded AU mission in Darfur. Secondly, local reconciliation needed to be promoted. Thirdly, the Abuja peace talks had to be revitalized. Lastly, international pressure on all responsible parties needed to be maintained.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 12 May in informal consultations, the Security Council heard a briefing from Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the progress made towards the adoption of a draft constitution and the holding of elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Agreement on the Constitution and continuation of the preparation for elections was considered vital to keep momentum in the transitional process. The Assistant Secretary-General also briefed the Council on the latest developments concerning repatriation of FDLR, where limited progress had been made in meeting the benchmarks.

Sierra Leone

On 17 May in informal consultations, the Security Council heard a briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Daudi N. Mwakawago. He presented the twenty-fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), in it which it was recommended that the mandate of the Mission be extended for a final six months from June 2005. It was observed that the generally calm political and security situation in Sierra Leone had allowed for further consolidation of the peace process and advancement towards accomplishing the benchmarks for the Mission's presence, but it was also underlined that Sierra Leone was still faced with a number of challenges as it entered the transition phase from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. After the meeting the President delivered a statement to the press, which signalled the intention of the Council members to consider a final renewal of the UNAMSIL mandate and stated that a strong United Nations presence would be needed after UNAMSIL had departed.

Special Court for Sierra Leone

On 24 May, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the President of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, Justice Emmanuel Olayinka Ayoola, on the progress and completion strategy of the Court. The President of the Court drew particular attention to the issues of funding for the Court, the security of the Court and the cooperation of States in transferring indictees to the Court. The Council then proceeded to a private meeting, at which the members exchanged views on the efforts of the Court so far and possible challenges ahead. After the meeting, the President delivered a statement to the press, reiterating the strong support of the Council members for the Special Court for Sierra Leone and urging the international community to continue to support the Court as it moves into its final stage of work. In the statement to the press the President also expressed the intention of the Council members to consider ways to deal with such issues as security for the Court, and underlined the importance of ensuring that all those who have been indicted by the Court would appear before it, strengthening the stability of Sierra Leone and the subregion and bringing an end to impunity.

Guinea-Bissau

On 17 May, the President made a statement to the press reiterating the concern of the members of the Council about the political situation in Guinea-Bissau and reaffirming their support for the country's national authorities.

Burundi

On 23 May, at a formal meeting of the Council, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/19), in which the Council took note with satisfaction of the declaration, signed on 15 May 2005 at Dar es Salaam by the President of Burundi and by the leader of the rebel group Palipehutu-FNL, by which the parties committed themselves to immediately cease hostilities and negotiate without disturbing the electoral process. The Council also urged all Burundian parties to exert greater efforts to ensure the success of the transition, national reconciliation and the stability of the country in the longer term.

Prior to the adoption of the presidential statement the Council heard a briefing in informal consultations from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, Carolyn McAskie, on the latest developments in the transition process. She presented the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), in which the Secretary-General recommended extension of the Operation for another six months, until December 2005. It emerged from the briefing that, despite delays leading to the second extension of the transitional period, the Burundian parties had continued to advance on the path of peace.

On 31 May the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1602 (2005), by which it extended the mandate of ONUB for six additional months, until 1 December 2005, called upon the Burundian parties to refrain from any action which might affect the cohesion of the process under the Arusha Agreement, and took note with satisfaction of the electoral timetable agreed among the parties.

Humanitarian situation in Africa

On 10 May in informal consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, briefed the Council on the humanitarian situation in Africa. He pointed out that the world's greatest humanitarian challenges were all in Africa and that all of them merited more political and financial attention. In particular the long-lasting humanitarian crises in northern Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Darfur were mentioned, but concern was also expressed about situations in parts of southern Africa and the Horn threatening to re-emerge as full-blown humanitarian crises if no action were taken. The Under-Secretary-General also made a strong call for enhanced funding of the 14 specific appeals for Africa, of which 8 had so far received less than 20 per cent of the requested funds.

Asia

Lebanon

On 4 May, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/17), welcoming that the parties concerned in Lebanon had made significant and noticeable progress towards implementing some of the provisions contained in resolution 1559 (2004), while expressing concern at the determination of the Secretary-General that there had been no progress on the implementation of other provisions of the resolution, in particular the disarmament of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia and the extension of the control of the Government of Lebanon over all Lebanese territory, and that the requirements of the resolution had not yet been met.

Middle East

On 18 May the Council heard the monthly open briefing on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, stated that the people of the Middle East were now approaching a number of important turning points, and he expressed hope that recent events in the region would be remembered as a new start on the road towards peace, rather than a slide back into conflict and violent confrontation. Reporting on the meeting of the Quartet in Moscow on 9 May, he said that the discussion, which had sought to review the current situation in the Middle East with particular attention to disengagement from Gaza, had focused on how best to help the parties maintain the momentum at this fragile moment of opportunity. He further said that the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the northern West Bank marked an important landmark in Israeli-Palestinian relations, and that continued bilateral coordination would be one way to ensure that disengagement proceeded successfully. The Under-Secretary-General also touched on the situation in Lebanon. After the briefing, the members of the Council held informal consultations.

Iraq

On 31 May, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Hoshyar Zebari, and a briefing on the activity of the Multinational Force in Iraq by the representative of the United States of America, Ambassador Anne Patterson. After the briefing, the Council held a private meeting

with the participation of the Foreign Minister of Iraq. In a statement to the press, the President reported that Council members had agreed upon the continuation of the mandate of the Multinational Force in Iraq in accordance with Security Council resolution 1546 (2004) and at the request of the newly elected Government of Iraq.

The members of the Council also agreed upon the continuation of the relevant arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board in line with resolution 1546 (2004). In addition, in the statement to the press, the members of the Council stressed the need for Iraq's constitutional process to be inclusive, participatory and transparent, and encouraged the Transitional National Assembly of Iraq and other relevant institutions to reach out broadly to all segments of Iraqi society, with a view of promoting genuine political dialogue and national reconciliation and ensuring that all Iraqis would have a voice in the drafting of the constitution.

Timor-Leste

On 16 May, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Timor-Leste. The Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations informed the Council that the March elections had been peaceful, and that the newly created follow-on special political mission, the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL), was preparing to start operations later in May, after the completion of the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISET) on 20 May 2005. The Assistant Secretary-General stressed that UNOTIL would transfer skills and knowledge, assisting with the development of critical State institutions, sending in police advisers and bolstering the development of the Border Patrol Unit.

Europe

Georgia

On 4 May, the Council held a private meeting followed by informal consultations at which the situation in Georgia was discussed on the basis of the quarterly report of the Secretary-General (S/2005/269) and a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Envoy of the President of Georgia for Conflict Resolution in Abkhazia, Georgia, Irakli Alasania, made a statement.

The Council took stock of the recent positive developments in the peace process after the high-level meeting held at Geneva early in April, at which the parties had participated for the first time since July 2003 and had expressed willingness to renew dialogue on priority areas and resume work in relevant task forces and working groups. In a statement to the press issued after the meeting, the President expressed the continued support of the members of the Council for the United Nations, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the Special Representative, with the assistance of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and the Russian Federation, in its capacity as facilitator, in the efforts to build the necessary trust between the parties for meaningful negotiations on a lasting political settlement, based on the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro)

On 27 May, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Kosovo, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2005/335 and Corr.1) and in the presence of the President of the Coordination Centre of Serbia and Montenegro and of the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, Nebojsa Covic. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Per Stig Møller.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Søren Jessen-Petersen, introduced the report and pointed to tangible progress with standards implementation in the reporting period and a clear demonstration of political will and capacity to maintain momentum in the continuing standards process. He emphasized the importance of the recommendation of the Secretary-General in the report that a comprehensive review be initiated in mid-2005 in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) and the relevant presidential statements of the Security Council, and that a subsequent decision on the status issue would produce much more significant results on issues such as returns, freedom of movement and the economy.

Mr. Covic made the position of Serbia and Montenegro known to the Council, stressing that the cornerstone of Belgrade's policy was that the State's borders could not be changed, and its sovereignty and territorial integrity could not be questioned.

The members of the Council expressed support for the work of the Special Representative and UNMIK, and supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to initiate the review mid-2005 and to shortly appoint a Special Envoy to conduct it. While seeing this decision as an important milestone, they stressed that there was no automaticity as to the outcome of the review process and the subsequent launching of a final status process. The Council urged the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government to continue intensifying their efforts as well as the pace for further progress with implementation of the standards.

Americas

Haiti

On 13 May, the Council held a public meeting on the fact-finding mission to Haiti, conducted from 13 to 16 April 2005 to review progress achieved in areas such as security, development, the political transition, human rights, institution-building and the humanitarian situation. Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg of Brazil led the mission, composed of all 15 members of the Council. Ambassador Sardenberg stressed that free, fair and inclusive elections must be held in accordance with the established timetable, noting that, even though elections should not be seen as a universal remedy to the crisis in Haiti, they were essential to the formation of a legitimate government, thus concluding the political transition period that had started more than a year previously. The members also stressed the need for an improvement in the security situation and the respect for all human rights in the country.

In informal consultations on 25 May, the Council members discussed the situation in Haiti with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ambassador Juan Gabriel Valdés. He briefed the Council on the basis of the report

of the Secretary-General, focusing on the political process and preparations for elections, and he encouraged the Council to meet the recommendation of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

On 31 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1601 (2005), by which it extended the mandate of MINUSTAH until 24 June, with the intention to renew for further periods.

Thematic issues

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 26 May, the Council held an open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding. The debate was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Per Stig Møller. The Deputy Secretary-General made a statement, followed by the President of the World Bank, James D. Wolfensohn, addressing the Council via video link from Washington, D.C. Apart from members of the Council, 23 Member States participated in the debate.

Prior to the debate, the presidency had circulated a discussion paper on the topic stating that the objective was to discuss the current policy, institutional, and financial challenges in post-conflict peacebuilding with a view to strengthening the coherence and consistency of Security Council action, keeping in mind that the Council is but one of several players in this field.

In a presidential statement issued after the debate (S/PRST/2005/20), the Security Council recognized the complex challenges of modern-day conflicts, and that the response required a coherent and integrated mix of peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities. The Council also recognized the key role played by the United Nations, including United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, alongside the international financial institutions, bilateral donors and troop contributors. The Council recognized the importance of national ownership and regional involvement and underlined the special needs of Africa, welcoming the ever-closer partnership between the African Union, the African subregional organizations and the United Nations. Finally the Council took note with interest of the important proposal by the Secretary-General to establish a peacebuilding commission.

United Nations peacekeeping operations

On 31 May, the Security Council held an open meeting on United Nations peacekeeping operations, at which it was briefed by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, and by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. Both speakers provided the Council with an update on the status of the implementation of measures to prevent future cases of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping personnel, as well as an overview of the challenges ahead. At the conclusion of the meeting, the President made a statement on behalf of the Council (S/PRST/2005/21), in which, among other matters, the Council expressed its deep concern with the allegations of sexual misconduct among United Nations peacekeeping personnel, and urged the relevant parties to implement the necessary measures to prevent, monitor, investigate and report cases of misconduct.